

## Contact us

For additional information, contact your  
local DCR Watershed office

[www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_&\\_water/  
swintro.shtml#regional](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/swintro.shtml#regional)

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## VSMP

### VIRGINIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



#### GENERAL PERMIT

*for Discharges of Stormwater  
from Construction Activities*

## VSMP



Under federal law, construction site operators must develop and implement plans to address water quality and prevent sediment and other pollutants from washing into nearby streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters. In Virginia this is done through the issuance of a ***Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities.***

The Federal Clean Water Act requires those undertaking many construction activities to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit coverage for stormwater runoff. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is authorized by the Virginia Stormwater Management Act to administer the NPDES Program.

## Who must apply?

All owners and operators of construction activities with ***a land-disturbance equal to or greater than one acre MUST***, except for two circumstances:

> In ***designated Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas – land-disturbance equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet***

- Chesapeake Bay Preservation localities are in Tidewater Virginia, generally east of Interstate 95 and metropolitan Richmond. Contact the locality where land-disturbance is occurring to determine if it is in a ***designated*** Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area.

> Sites in a common plan of development or sale

- ***Larger common plan of development or sale*** defines a contiguous area where separate and distinct construction is taking place at different times on different schedules.
- ***Plan*** is broadly defined as any announcement or documentation, including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc., or physical demarcation such as boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings and so on, indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.
- The permit threshold and fees are based on the ultimate land-disturbance of a larger common plan of development or sale.

## Effect on construction activities

Operators of construction activities requiring VSMP General Permit coverage must obtain a VSMP General Permit *before beginning land disturbance activities*. This involves developing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP, pronounced *swhip*) prior to sub-



mitting a *Registration Statement for permit coverage*. As part of this process operators must:

- Address post-development water quality in the SWPPP and in accordance with the general permit.
- Keep a copy of the VSMP Permit Coverage Letter, General Permit (DCR01) and SWPPP on site.
- Follow and maintain SWPPP throughout construction.
- Submit a VSMP General Permit Notice of Termination (DCR199-147) to DCR within 30 days after final stabilization.

*All permitted sites are subject to inspection by DCR staff.*

## SWPPP

### Post construction stormwater management

Section II D.2.c of the General Permit (DCR01) requires that the SWPPP include:

- A description of, and all necessary calculations supporting, all post-construction stormwater management measures that will be installed during construction to control pollutants in stormwater discharge after construction is finished.
- The measures must be designed in accordance with applicable local and state requirements.
- The state SWM requirements can be found in the Virginia SWM handbook available on the web at:  
[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_&\\_water/stormwat.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/stormwat.shtml)

## Fees

### for the VSMP General Permit (DCR01)

Fees are based on the area of land-disturbance:

- Equal to or greater than five acres: **\$500**
- Equal to or greater than one and less than five acres: **\$300**
- Equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet and less than one acre: **No Fee**

*For construction activities that are part of a common plan of development, the fee is based on the total area of land disturbance.*

#### Notes:

- Fees are subject to change.
- This brochure is meant as a basic guide: It is not comprehensive.
- Read the General Permit (DCR01) for full permit requirements.

## What is a SWPPP?

A SWPPP, or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, identifies potential pollution sources from the construction activity and describes the methods used to control pollutants. The VSMP General Permit (DCR01) contains a complete list of SWPPP requirements.

### Major components of a SWPPP:

#### A narrative including:

- Description of the site
- List of contractors, including contact information
- List of receiving waters
- List of potential pollution sources
- List of measures and BMPs to control pollutants
- Schedule of grading and stabilization activities
- Record of inspections performed by qualified personnel (Qualified personnel means a professional engineer (P.E.), or DCR certified responsible land disturber, inspector or combined administrator)

#### A site plan with:

- Identification of drainage patterns
- Location of stormwater discharges
- Location of pollutant sources and related control measures and BMPs
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan with design calculations (may be fulfilled by referencing approved state or local E&S plans)
- Description of post-development stormwater management (SWM) measures including design calculations (may be fulfilled by referencing approved state or local SWM plans)

*The SWPPP must be revised if there is a change in design, construction, operation or maintenance that can affect the discharge of pollutants from the site.*

## How to obtain permit coverage

1. Prepare a SWPPP in accordance with Section II of the General Permit (DCR01). The SWPPP must be prepared before applying for the permit coverage. It is reviewed onsite by DCR staff.
2. Mail a complete VSMP General Permit Registration Statement (DCR 199-146) along with a topographic map and list of permanent BMPs to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Stormwater Permitting  
203 Governor Street, Suite 206  
Richmond, VA 23219

3. Mail a complete Permit Application fee form (DCR 199-145) and check payable to Treasurer of Virginia to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Finance, Accounts Payable  
203 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

*The VSMP General Permit Registration Statement, Fee form and the General Permit (DCR01) are available at:*  
[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_&\\_water/vsmp.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/vsmp.shtml)